

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE FIRE SAFE CIGARETTE ACT OF 1998

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, Today, I am introducing the Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 1998, which would direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a fire safety standard for cigarettes.

Each year thousands of innocent people are killed, maimed or permanently disfigured by carelessly discarded cigarettes. Under a typical cigarette fire scenario, the smoker falls asleep in a bed or sofa with a burning cigarette, the ash smolders for hours, then bursts into flames in the middle of the night—a time when everyone is least prepared.

Cigarette related fires are not rare or freak occurrences. In 1995, 1,122 individuals perished and 2,667 individuals were seriously injured from these fires. One third of the victims were innocent children. Furthermore, cigarette related fires caused more than \$500 million in property damage in 1995.

I first became involved with this issue when a family of seven perished in a cigarette related fire in my Congressional District. Five children—all under the age of ten—were burned to death. This tragedy occurred on Memorial Day Weekend in 1979.

Now, almost twenty years later, I am still fighting to give the CPSC that authority to promulgate a fire safety standard for cigarettes. Two technical bills, the Cigarette Safety Act and the Fire Safe Cigarette Act, have been passed and enacted into law.

As a result of the legislation, we now know that a cigarette can be slightly altered to significantly reduce the number of cigarette related fires. The key characteristics of a fire safe cigarette are: a filter tip, a smaller diameter, less porous paper, more expandable tobacco, and no citrate additive. By simply modifying these characteristics, cigarette manufacturers could significantly reduce the number of cigarette related fires each year.

All the technical work required to develop a fire safety standard is completed. The CPSC is ready and willing to do it. We just need to give the CPSC the authority to promulgate a fire safety standard and the Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 1998 does just that.

After twenty years of work on this issue, I am frustrated that the victims of cigarette related fires continue to be the innocent. Too often the victim is the child asleep in the upstairs bedroom, or the elderly neighbor in the apartment next door. Study after study has proven that it is technically and economically feasible to develop a fire safe cigarette, clearly Congress needs to weigh in and require cigarette manufacturers to develop fire safe cigarettes. No more children should fall victim to cigarette related fires that are preventable.

Let's pass the Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 1998 and save thousands of innocent children

and elderly individuals from perishing in cigarette related fires.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MIKE AND JOELLA KERSCHNER ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR TWENTY-FIFTH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding couple from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Mike and Joella Kerschner. I extend my best wishes to Mike and Joella, who will be celebrating their Twenty-Fifth Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, May 23, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, Mike and Joella exemplify what a loving, strong, healthy marriage should be. For as long as I have known them, Mike and Joella have been the best of friends and the closest of companions. Through their marriage vows, they have dedicated their lives to each other, to share in the joy of marriage. As we celebrate the Twenty-Fifth Wedding Anniversary of Mike and Joella's wedding, let us reflect on their lives, their love for one another, and wish them a happy and healthy marriage in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, as Mike and Joella Kerschner celebrate this very special occasion, I wish them, their children, Karl, John, and Chris, and all of their families many years of love and happiness. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mike and Joella Kerschner on their Twenty-Fifth Wedding Anniversary, and in wishing them the very best in the future.

THANK YOU, EDWIN KORN, JR.

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, our communities grow and succeed when there is strength in community and strong leaders. I rise today to pay tribute to one individual, Edwin Korn, Jr., who has been the backbone of Port Austin for almost 40 years, serving 36 of those years as the President of the Port Austin Village Council.

Edwin was born in Detroit and moved to Port Austin in 1950. He left Port Austin only twice; once to attend college and again to serve his country in the Army. Since then, he has been a strong presence in Port Austin and an important leader of the community.

Appointed clerk in 1962, he served one term as Trustee before becoming President. He has overseen some amazing changes in Port Austin including the switch from well water to lake water and the construction of a world-class

waste water facility. Port Austin now has the distinction of having the best tasting water in the state. It is no wonder that other surrounding communities would like to tie into the Port Austin system. Although he will not seek reelection, I am sure he will remain a strong influence and continue to support efforts to improve the lives of the citizens of Port Austin and Huron County.

Edwin is astutely optimistic that there will be strong development in the Port Austin area over the next ten years and he plans to continue to remain a key player. His leadership in brining a major breakwall and harbor development effort to Port Austin goes directly to the recognition that this is a leading fishing, boating, and recreation destination in Michigan.

He could not have had such a successful career and fulfilled life without the support of his wife, Doreen, and their four children, 11 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. His loyalty and dedication is evident through his job at Mayes IGA Foodliner where he has worked for 40 years and is now manager.

Mr. Speaker, if we want to teach our citizens to be driven by the concept of community and family, we need only introduce them to individuals like Edwin Korn. I ask you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing Edwin Korn the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING ALBERT COURNOYER ON 40 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE PUBLIC HOUSE HISTORIC INN

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged today to honor one of my constituents, Mr. Albert Cournoyer, as he celebrates his 40th year of hard work and dedicated service to the Public House Historic Inn in Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

The Public House has been successfully operating and thriving in Sturbridge for 227 years. I have to think that part of the reason for the Inn's long and prosperous presence in this area of Massachusetts is due to the work of fine employees such as Albert Cournoyer.

Mr. Cournoyer first began assuming responsibility at the Public House in 1958, at the young age of 14. His work ethic and positive attitude were quickly manifested and noticed as he performed the duties of handyman and dishwasher. Mr. Cournoyer's commitment and skill allowed him to move on from these jobs to other facets of the Inn's operations so that by age 21, he was promoted to Head Chef.

Albert Cournoyer's career in the culinary arena continued to grow until he was made Executive Chef and later to the point where he was entrusted with the duty of overseeing food service operations at Old Sturbridge Village.

One of Mr. Cournoyer's greatest achievements, the fruits of which we witness today,

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